THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In case of emergency, non-available medicines are purchased from Messers Hamdard Laboratory (Delhi) through the Central Government Health Scheme, Unani Store Depot and supplied to the beneficiaries.

Suitable candidate for the post of Deputy Advisor (UNANI)

1408. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Deputy Advisor (Unani) has been placed under reserved category;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and rationale behind reservation of this post;

(c) whether it is a fact that no suitable candidates belonging to the reserved category has been found despite efforts made during the last several years; and

(d) if so, what efforts are being made to dereserve this post ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to statutory provisions, the vacancy is required to be filled by a reserved candidate.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Government is considering the change in the recruitment method of the Deputy Adviser (Unani) from "Direct Recruitment" to "promotion" by making amendments in the existing Recruitment Rules.

Test on abortion Pill Ru-486

1409. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the abortion pill RU-486 (mifepristone) was tested before it was brought to the open market for the use of women; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) The pill RU-486 (mifepristone) is under-going clinical trials in ICMR and has not been approved by the Government for marketing.

People suffering from psychiatric illness

1410. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that out of every 10 people one is suffering from a major psychiatric illness; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) According to some estimates at least 10—20 persons per thousand of population are effected by serious mental disorder at any point of time.

(b) The Government have taken following steps in this regard :

(i) National Mental Health Programme was developed in 1982.

(ii) National Advisory Group on Mental Health was constituted in 1988.

(iii) 11 Regional Medical Colleges have been identified with a view to implement certain identified areas of the programme.

(iv) Provision has been made in the 8th Five Year Plan to improve the functioning of some of the mental hospitals in India.

(v) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore and Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi are providing training courses for experts in mental health.